



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

The Deputy Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

March 22, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF DEPARTMENT COMPONENTS

FROM: James B. Comey 
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: National Women's History Month, March 2004

March 2004 commemorates National Women's History Month. During this month, the Department of Justice will be sponsoring and presenting a wide variety of programs that formally recognize the substantial contributions women have made to the Department and to America.

This observance was inspired by women textile and garment workers in New York who went on strike on March 8, 1857, to protest their low wages and poor working conditions. Soon thereafter, March 8 was celebrated each year as American Women's Day. In the 1970s, the celebration was expanded to a full week, and since 1987, the entire month of March has been proclaimed as National Women's History Month. This year, as we honor the integral role that women have consistently played in the development and sustained progress of our great nation, we will be highlighting many of their most important achievements and contributions through a series of exhibits, programs, and other activities.

I invite your staff, managers, and employees to join in studying this rich history. In view of the special significance of National Women's History Month, please inform your employees in the Washington Metropolitan area of scheduled activities and grant them reasonable, official time to participate.